

# STATE FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

September 11, 2010

## MINUTES

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>Apache</b>	<b>Greenlee</b>	<b>Santa Cruz</b>
	Bruce Brannan		<i>Vacant Position</i>	Tom Tellez
	John Fry			
	Nancy Harrell	<b>Cochise</b>	<b>La Paz</b>	<b>Yavapai</b>
	Carole Kemp			
	Connie Koch	Patricia Schloss	<i>Vacant Position</i>	
	Marilyn Miller			
	Stan Rykowski			
	Linda Smith		<b>Mohave</b>	
	Al Sondergaard	<b>Coconino</b>		<b>Yuma</b>
	<b>Pima</b>			
		<b>Gila</b>	<b>Navajo</b>	<b>At-Large</b>
	Richard Daidone			
	Julie Gasaway	Jo Foti	Thelma Gray	John Deneka
	Paul Hanson			Joe Jacober
	Lori Levitan			Gene Manring
	Jen Stephens-	<b>Graham</b>	<b>Pinal</b>	Patricia Trebesch
	Cortum			
	Warren Trask	Ann Johnson		

**Staff:** Caroline Lauth-Owens, Bill Callahan, Sandy Guizzetti, Charles Gray, Bruce Johnson, Carolyn Smith, Carissa Moore, Esma Murrieta and Carmen Fulce

### I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY PAT TREBESCH TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 6, 2010 MEETING. MOTION SECONDED. MOTION PASSED. (1002)**

### II. INTRODUCTIONS:

The following introductions were made: Emmalyn King and Kourtney Greving as Interns for FCRB, Stan Rykowski, MC12 and Carmen Fulce as the new hire for Cathy Metrick's position.

Joe reminded everyone of the importance of signing in for the meeting and the sign-in sheet was passed around.

### III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### A. Executive Committee:

Joe Jacober delivered the following report:

Three attendance waivers were approved: Jeanne Herstad Pima 10, Kathleen Witzak Pinal 3, and Seija Farber MC 22 .

#### B. Advocacy Committee:

Bruce Brannan delivered the following report:

The committee discussed the 2010 Goal – of having some direct meetings with various juvenile court judges, particularly presiding judges. The meetings are progressing and going well.

Bruce highlighted the progress of the legislative bills regarding foster care:

***HB 2224*** A Bill of Rights for Foster Parents has been put into statute and outlines that they should be treated with consideration and respect, included as a valuable member of the team providing services, and contribute to the permanency plan for the child.

***Sibling Visitation*** - The reasonable efforts protocol will be reviewed to make sure the agency is making reasonable efforts for sibling visits on a regular basis.

***HB 1035*** Parental Rights Termination – defines new definition of dependency and requires guardian ad litem to be an attorney. This bill states a more stringent requirement for the GAL or attorney to meet with the minor as soon as possible following the appointment.

***Foster Care Children's Rights*** – ARS 8-529 lists a series of rights of children in foster care.

Bruce stated the Advocacy Committee will be including a flyer in the next packet highlighting how to get legislative alerts via email, contact information for Phoenix and Tucson offices, and an advertisement for the new website.

Discussion on Finding 10 report – the report is not providing the most effective information needed. Suggestions to get accurate statistics on the report included urging the local boards to be diligent in asking the questions relevant to the report. Bill and Sandy are to work on the issues of the report. This will be an agenda item at the March meeting.

Bruce stated the Advocacy Committee will be meeting between now and March and has generated an action item to find a way to have the meeting via some type of web-based format.

The Children's Action Alliance website will have the names of those candidates who are on the ballot for the general election.

### **C. Outreach Committee:**

Linda Smith delivered the following report:

State Vacancy Rate: 16%

Tucson Outreach Update:

- Paying more attention to rural areas, especially Pinal.
- Article in Tri-Valley Dispatch in Pinal and an insert in the Sulphur Springs Valley Cooperative Electric bills in Cochise garnered lots of interest.
- A Pima volunteer nominated the entire program for a morning show prize called "Coffee is on Us". Sandy and Esma will be speaking on *The Morning Blend*, a Tucson morning show on 9/15/10.
- Plans are in place to distribute more flyers in the Tucson libraries.
- Newspaper articles will be submitted in Pima and Yuma Counties.
- Radio PSA's will be resubmitted.

Phoenix Outreach Update:

- An article published in Navajo County which also covers Apache County raised awareness.
- Radio PSA's, and flyers in Starbucks were completed in Mohave.
- An article published in Bullhead City generated 12 applications.
- We are continuing to build the waiting list for the east valley. Regular contact is maintained with those on the waiting list.
- We will begin redistributing flyers at Starbucks and the libraries.
- John Fry reported that he spoke with 9 people and 6 indicated they will be submitting applications. He continues to talk with people about the program.
- Flyer distribution: Jen will handle Pima libraries; Esma will email Tucson region volunteers; Carol is willing to help in Tempe and parts of Chandler; Joe can help in Northeast Phoenix/Scottsdale Starbucks.
- We sent around a calendar to sign up for speaking engagements at the PS MAPP class.

Goals:

1. Develop and maintain a comprehensive recruitment plan that identifies the methodology that can be utilized in each county to successfully recruit new applicants/volunteers. Identify categories of recruitment that have been successful.
  - Have staff attend each board or give flyers to each board and utilize existing board members to talk to people about the program.

- Create sign-up sheet for the Program Specialist to discuss in admin business and explore using Board Chairs to discuss recruitment ideas and hand out applications with volunteers. This will begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January 2011, and continue throughout the year. As a reminder, we will have Board Chairs ask members how we are doing with recruitment at least every quarter.
2. Refine outreach tools to leverage community awareness and drive participation.
    - Youth Participation – During summer months focus on outreach for youth participation. We will insert brochure in AZ Statewide, a DES publication.
    - Media Kits/PSA's – We will use news article written by Linda, fact sheets, press release, speaking points and FAQ's.
    - We are changing "Speakers Bureau" to "Speaking Engagements" and we will utilize volunteers.
    - Award Recognition - Discussed having volunteers nominate each other via emails sent out twice a year. Charlie will locate original nomination form used.

The committee will continue to meet monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at noon.

#### **D. Continuing Education Committee:**

Connie Koch delivered the following report:

The committee discussed 7 goals and the status:

1. **Revise the training guidelines and training form and distribute it to volunteers and staff** – they have been updated and will be distributed through packets and the webpage. The goal is to have the new education form ready for use by the volunteers by January 1, 2011.
2. **Develop, distribute and make easily accessible annual core training (combined with) Goal #6 Identify and deliver single training topics statewide** – Findings and elements training was this year's core focus. Approximately 245 volunteers from Phoenix and 136 from Tucson received the training. Each region has another new board member training scheduled and this should increase the total number between 30 and 40 if not more. An additional training opportunity has been identified for all volunteers: they may read the Finding 10 business rules and all nine addendums found in the back of the findings book and this will afford an additional 2 hours of training. A specific training form will be provided to all volunteers in October, 2010.
3. **Identify and document core competencies for board members** – We are still working on this; however, we have identified mental health, substance abuse and veteran members for training on review protocol and preparations for the review. We are also working to identify regional resources to be shared with volunteers. Due to the economy and services being cut, boards may not always know what may be available.
4. **To develop a board volunteer self-assessment tool** – We identified a series of draft questions to ask as a self assessment for each board member

individually to see how they fit into the board. We will also want to identify questions to use for the board as a whole. It is suggested that this assessment be done yearly at the beginning of the year. The goal is to have this completed by early 2011.

5. **To finalize and implement the board prep sheet revisions** – Draft completed. Connie passed out copies of draft for review. The form should be ready for use by the boards in October. A memo to outline the changes on the prep sheet will accompany the new form.
6. **To evaluate the efficacy of holding an expo of service providers for the Phoenix and Tucson Region** – Accomplished. Expo set for September 30, 2010 from 12:30-4:30 in Maricopa.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

Joe stated we will continue with the 2 meetings per year. Next State Board is March 5, 2011.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS:**

No new business was brought forward.

#### **VI. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Bill delivered the following report:

PS Lori Richart got a new job in the Juvenile Justice Services Division. Her replacement will start on October 4, 2010.

Our two interns started last month and will be working on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They have the needed data accesses and we anticipate them acquiring all of the skills demonstrated by PS III's. They will be here through April 2011.

Bill discussed the new website **[www.azfcrb.org](http://www.azfcrb.org)**. Of special interest is a link to the DVD that was created by Arizona Capital Television that features Bruce Brannan, Caroline Lantt-Owens and Chief Justice Rebecca Berch. This presentation was made with the idea of recruiting board members and getting the word out about what we do.

Bruce Johnson gave website demonstration.

#### **VII. DIVISION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Caroline delivered the following report:

The group that has been working on the attorney standards for child representation is moving forward. This is for any attorney or GAL who represents a child in dependency cases. The drafted standards have been presented to the Committee on Juvenile Court (COJC) which consists of the Juvenile Presiding Judges, Court Directors and others. They provided feedback and comments to redraft. Most of their comments were centered on the training component. The final draft is completed and will be presented back to the

COJC on September 17, 2010 at which we anticipate they will approve the standards. The next step would be to open up the standards for comment to the State Bar, attorneys, volunteers, CASA volunteers, foster parents, and various stakeholders. After the comment period, we will then present the standards to the Arizona Judicial Council (AJC), which is chaired by Chief Justice Rebecca Berch. Once the standards are approved by the AJC, we will ask for them to be adopted as well as how they should be adopted i.e, administrative order or court rule.

Caroline announced Letitia D'Amore (Letty) as the new CASA Program Manager. Bonnie Marcus and her husband relocated to Northern California.

There is an ongoing recruitment for a new CASA Training Specialist. The previous Specialist obtained a position with Education Services.

Carmen Fulce has been hired for Cathy Metrick's position. Cathy retired the end of August.

We are working through our Court Improvement federal grants to try to identify some money that we might be able to use host a statewide conference in August 2011.

#### **VIII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no public respondents.

#### **IX. MISCELLANEOUS:**

Joe asked that all of the at large members be put on the distribution lists for all announcements and flyers.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 P.M.